

benzoin (*kaminian*); these are burned in little stands made of bamboo rods; one end is stuck in the ground and the other split into four or five, and then opened out and plaited with basket work, so as to hold a little earth. They are called *sangka*; a Malay will often vow that if he succeeds in some particular project, or gets out of some difficulty in which he may happen to be placed, he will burn three or more *sangka* at such and such a *Kramat*. Persons who visit a *Kramat* in times of distress or difficulty, to pray and to vow offerings, in case their prayers are granted, usually leave behind them as tokens of their vows small pieces of white cloth, which are tied to the branches of a tree or to sticks planted in the ground near the sacred spot.

For votary purposes the long-forgotten tomb of Toh Bidan Susu Laujut enjoys considerable popularity among the Mohamedans of Larut; and the tree which overshadows it has I am glad to say been spared the fate which awaited the rest of the jungle which overhung the road. No coolie was bold enough to put an axe to it.

W. E. M.

[The tracing, which it is found impossible to print here, is in the Society's possession, and can be seen at the Raffles Library by any one interested in the subject.]

#### MALAY-ENGLISH DICTIONARIES.

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It does not speak well for either the enterprise or the Scholarship of English dwellers in this part of the world, that the best Malay and English dictionary which we possess is more than two thirds of a century old. Since the publication of Marsden's work there have indeed been issued several Malay Vocabularies, besides the more ambitious and voluminous work of Craufurd. But only the scantiest of these vocabularies has attempted to print the Malay words in the Arabic characters, in which alone the educated Malay is accustomed to read his own language. Even Marsden is sparing of his Arabic type, and foregoes the use of it in most of his numerous quotations from Malay authors. Under these circumstances, and having regard to the attainment of Malay as it is expected from many of the Civil Servants in this Colony, we cannot wonder that the supply of copies of Favre's Malay-French Dictionary sent out to the Straits

Settlements has been for some time exhausted. The work is no longer in type, and although doubtless some copies remain in European booksellers' shops, this fact appears to be a sufficient excuse for asking whether the Government and our learned Societies ought not, at the present juncture, to do something towards producing a Malay-English Dictionary, worthy to rank with the work of L' Abbé Favre, and with the Malay-Dutch dictionaries of Von Dewall, Pijnappel and Klinkert. L' Abbé Favre has generously given leave for an English translation of his work to be published, but to print an edition of 500 copies would entail an expenditure of more than £1,000; too large a risk for any individual. And Favre's work, excellent as it is, has some mistakes and deficiencies: the latter notably in the botanical information. At least it is to hoped that the matter will not be suffered to drop.

L. C. B.

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